

Missouri Yet Leads in the Primary Pledge List

New interest in all sections of the country has recently been awakened in The Commoner's primary pledge plan and as a result of the friendly competition among democrats some changes have taken place in the standing of states with respect to the number of pledges returned to The Commoner office. Missouri yet stands at the head of the column and West Virginia retains unchallenged the second place. But Indiana, which a few months ago stood eighth on the list, has by reason of the activity of Indiana democrats moved up to third place. Kentucky, which was so far down the list that its position was not designated has now taken seventh place, while Iowa, which was tenth in the line now comes eighth.

The standing of the respective states and territories in the number of primary pledges returned to The Commoner office is as follows:

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Missouri | 25 Alabama |
| 2 West Virginia | 26 Colorado |
| 3 Indiana | 27 North Carolina |
| 4 Ohio | 28 North Dakota |
| 5 Oklahoma | 29 Montana |
| 6 Illinois | 30 Florida |
| 7 Kentucky | 31 Louisiana |
| 8 Iowa | 32 Mississippi |
| 9 Indian Territory | 33 Maryland |
| 10 Kansas | 34 Connecticut |
| 11 Pennsylvania | 35 New Hampshire |
| 12 Tennessee | 36 Nevada |
| 13 Arkansas | 37 Idaho |
| 14 New York | 38 Arizona |
| 15 Nebraska | 39 Vermont |
| 16 California | 40 Georgia |
| 17 Oregon | 41 New Mexico |
| 18 Virginia | 42 Maine |
| 19 Minnesota | 43 Utah |
| 20 Wisconsin | 44 Delaware |
| 21 New Jersey | 45 Massachusetts |
| 22 Michigan | 46 South Carolina |
| 23 South Dakota | 47 Washington, D. C. |
| 24 Washington | 48 Wyoming |
| | 49 Rhode Island |

The active interest manifested by democrats in connection with the primary pledge plan has already had good results in various states, to say nothing of the benefits certain to accrue to the party generally because of an aroused interest on the part of the rank and file in the party's primaries.

The Commoner renews its appeal to every democrat in the United States to co-operate with the primary pledge plan, and to organize to the end that party conventions may be controlled by the rank and file and party platforms written and candidates chosen with an eye single to the public welfare.

As this copy of The Commoner may be read by some one not familiar with the details of the primary pledge plan, it is necessary to say that according to the terms of this plan every democrat is asked to pledge himself to attend all of the primaries of his party to be held between now and the next democratic national convention, unless unavoidably prevented, and to secure a clear, honest and straightforward declaration of the party's position on every question upon which the voters of the party desire to speak. Those desiring to be enrolled can either write to The Commoner approving the object of the organization and asking to have their names entered on the roll, or they can fill out and mail the blank pledge, which is printed on this page.

Extracts from letters received at The Commoner office follow:

A. M. McBride, Ava, Ill.—I enclose a list of signatures to the primary pledge. This makes fifty-six I have sent in.

J. O. Jones, Birta, Ark.—Enclosed you will find list of the voters who reside in my township. Not having the time to personally interview them regarding the primary pledge plan, I send you their names that you can send each a sample copy of The Commoner which will speak for itself in this regard. I am giving my Commoners to others to read as soon as I finish them myself. I have always attended primaries since I have been of legal age.

W. H. Tisch, Grass Lake, Mich.—I enclose a subscription card with amount to pay for same. I have one card left, and will try to dispose of it as soon as possible. I also enclose two primary pledges, properly signed, one by myself and the other by Mr. Fred Artz. Mr. Artz is an old gentleman about seventy years old. He has always voted the democratic ticket, and always attended primaries when health would permit. It is my idea that if every democrat could get

his democratic neighbors to sign the primary pledge, the democratic party would in 1908 be crowned with an overwhelming victory. I cast my first vote at the last election. I hope the democratic party will adopt a platform and nominate a man in 1908, so that real democrats will not have to disgrace themselves by voting for a galvanized party as they were forced to do in 1904. Please send me twenty-five primary pledge blanks.

H. H. Reitz, Donnellson, Ia.—I enclose a primary pledge signed by thirty-five voters.

E. F. Penrod, Sterling, O.—Register my name as a signer of the primary pledge plan. I would be greatly pleased to learn that there were at least one hundred Commoners sent to every post-office in this country, for were such the case the reform movement would soon be a settled fact solemnly written on the statute books of our nation.

J. W. Whitney, Melvern, Kans.—Enclosed find the names of nine Jefferson democrats. As soon as I can find the time will try to get more signatures to the primary pledge, as I think it is of vital interest to all good citizens, whether democrat or republican, white or black.

Ben N. Moore, Flushing, N. Y.—I pledge myself to work for democratic principles in 1908. There are some democrats who think they should break away from the democratic party in 1906 and nominate a municipal ownership man for governor of New York state. If they do this it will only be a great republican victory in the state. The only way to do is to get the reforms in the democratic party. If there were a municipal ownership party it would take years to get the party strong. We must get those reforms in the democratic party. This year was my first vote. It was a straight democratic ticket. The last election from Ohio means a democratic victory in 1908.

L. W. Timby, Salt Lake City, Utah—Enclosed find primary pledge with thirty-five names attached, the result of one evening's work while attending the Democratic One Dollar Banquet, given in honor of our chairman and secretary. Covers were laid for 250 and every seat was occupied by a democrat. May The Commoner live long to spread the good old Jeffersonian democracy, is the wish of your co-worker. I hope that the democrats of the nation may realize the importance of attending the primaries before it is too late.

Alfred Moore, Los Angeles, Calif.—I enclose primary pledge petition signed by six good democrats.

J. H. Warrick, Elkton, Ohio—I enclose a primary pledge with eighteen signatures.

John Roush, Lewis, Ia.—Enclosed I send primary pledge with twenty names of good and true democrats who will always be ready to give a good account of themselves when opportunity offers.

W. F. Gum, Palmer, W. Va.—Find herewith primary pledge with thirty-five signatures.

Lewis Strong, Myrtle Point, Oregon—The political pot will soon commence to simmer in Oregon, and as a democrat I deem it my duty to sign the primary pledge and do what I can

for the success of the democratic party for which I have voted and worked the last forty years. Things are looking brighter in politics as the common people seem to be coming to their senses. It will soon be time for boodlers and grafters to walk the gang plank. President Roosevelt, I am glad to say, has done much but there is much more that he can and no doubt will do to better conditions in the government.

D. W. Clark, Julietta, Ind.—I enclose a primary pledge signed by twelve democrats.

M. A. Neff, president Guarantee Advertising Co., Cincinnati, Ohio—Enclosed please find my primary pledge. I hope to be able to send you in a number of pledges as soon as my business rush is over.

O. M. Frasier, Fort Gay, W. Va.—I enclose a primary pledge with thirty-five signatures.

O. E. Hulehan, Deer River, Minn.—Find herewith primary pledge. I have signed this pledge because I am in favor of the plan and think it a step in the right direction.

Bert McMullen and R. Cook of Richwood, Mo. send a nice list of signatures to the primary pledge.

F. M. Whittaker, Covington, Pa.—Find enclosed a list of twenty-six names of democrats who have subscribed to the primary pledge. I also send three new subscribers for The Commoner, and hope to send more in the future.

C. H. Ayers, Lakenan, Mo.—Enclosed you will find primary pledge signed by twenty-two democrats.

R. A. Wapper, Bonnie, Ill.—Find herewith primary pledge signed by twenty.

Milton Nees, New Ross, Ind.—I sign this pledge because I believe it to be the best anti-boss and anti-ring movement before the common people. It is genuine democracy.

W. J. Montgomery, Longton, N. M.—Enclosed find my primary pledge. I am a democrat as taught by Bryan and Jefferson. Father and I have read The Commoner for four years and believe in all its teachings. Please send me twenty pledges that I may do some missionary work for democracy.

J. P. McEwen, West Tampa, Fla.—Enclosed find primary pledge signed by nine good men; they all like Mr. Bryan's plan for uniting the democratic party.

J. T. Vaughan, Alvarado, Tex.—Put me on your list as a strong believer in the primary pledge plan. The Commoner is the best moral political paper I ever read. I like Richard L. Metcalfe fine. He writes such good, wholesome pieces.

J. W. Canaday, Neeses, S. C.—Herewith primary pledge with eighteen signatures. I canvassed just one block and got the eighteen signers.

F. H. Bode, Springfield, Ill.—Enclosed find primary pledge which I signed merely "to be in line," as I have never allowed myself to miss voting.

George H. Thompson, Lake, Ind.—I enclose primary pledge bearing thirty-five names of Jeffersonian democrats. I feel proud to see so much enthusiasm shown among the democrats in our precinct. May the good work of The Commoner's plan of organization move on until every democrat's name is enrolled on the list of pledges.

THE PRIMARY PLEDGE

I promise to attend all the primaries of my party to be held between now and the next Democratic National Convention, unless unavoidably prevented, and to use my influence to secure a clear, honest and straightforward declaration of the party's position on every question upon which the voters of the party desire to speak.

Signed _____

Street _____ Postoffice _____ State _____

County _____ Voting precinct or ward _____

Fill out Blanks and mail to Commoner Office, Lincoln, Nebraska.